



Fact Sheet:

California Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment Program



In October 2003, the Governor's Office received a \$17.4 million grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment for the California Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (CASBIRT) Program. The purpose of the grant is to reduce substance abuse by intervening and screening nondependent users and referring those individuals who are dependent to community treatment services. This effort involves partnerships between the Governor's Office, the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the County of San Diego, three other California counties (to be selected later), and multiple healthcare providers.

Screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment are designed to intervene with this large population to reduce avoidable future problems and their associated health, social and economic costs.

Engaging nondependent users during medical visits, through routine screenings or by providing appropriate interventions, brief treatment services or referral to specialized treatment, are key to a successful program. Medical visits are considered "teachable moments" for 80 percent of the general population.

San Diego County and Altam Associates, the screening, brief intervention and referral service providers, are leaders in this effort. The pioneering work in San Diego has resulted in the development of an

efficient service delivery and implementation model, the creation of public policy in collaboration with medical organizations, local government and ongoing funding opportunities. Under the CASBIRT Program, San Diego County's model will be expanded to more hospitals, trauma centers and community clinics in San Diego, as well as three other California counties.

The expected program outcomes include:

- Reducing drug use by nondependent users by 25 percent
- Reducing alcohol consumption to a low-risk level
- Reducing alcohol consumption by 50 percent of nondependent drinkers

The Governor's Prevention Advisory Council will serve as the CASBIRT state-level Policy Steering Committee. A subcommittee will be formed and will be composed of health care agencies, state and county alcohol/drug administrators and staff, health plans and physicians to address financing and policy issues for future expansion of services.

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